Withholding of incentives to passengers travelling to Nepal

261. SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA:

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines has recently discontinued the incentives given to the passengers travelling to Nepal during summer; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Keeping in view the growth in traffic and other market considerations, a commercial decision has been taken by Indian Airlines and their poal partners Royal Nepal Airlines not to reintroduce Indo-Nepal excursion fare during summer this year.

Abolition of the Freight Equalization Policy

262. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to abolish the freight equalisation policy for iron and steel and a parallel practice of a telescopic freight structure for coal purchased by the railways; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) As a result of the recommendations made by the National Transport Policy Committee (Pande Committee) the Government have already accepted in principle that the existing freight equalisation on steel should be phased out gradually subject to the subsidisation of transport for remote, in-accessible and isolated areas. Necessary steps are being taken by the Department of Steel to work out suitable schemes|modalities to phase out freight equalisation. No proposal for abolition of the telescopic freight structure for coal purchased by the Railways is presently under consideration. The justification for telescopic freight structure lies in the fact that the cost of transportation tends to become lower with increase in distance.

One-Day World Cup Cricket Tournament

263. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of matches of the ensuing one day World Cup Cricket Tournament are proposed to be held in India and

(b) whether the final is proposal to be held in Calcutta?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI R K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Investments in the Component Sector of Electronics

264. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of new investments in the component sector of electronics following announcement of the new electronics policy last March by Government; and

(b) if the amount is inadequate, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY.

ELECTRONICS, OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Since the announcement of the new Policy in March, 1985 a total number of 45 units have been registered in the area of electronic components with an indicative value of Rs. 195 crores in capital goods investment.

(b) In view of (a) above, (b) does not arise.

Development of Domestic Tourism during the Seventh Five Year Plan

265. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have accorded high priority to domestic tourism during the Seventh Five Year Plan with a view to promoting national integration and preserving cultural heritage;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to encourage domestic tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. With this end in view the Department is formulating schemes under various heads such as construction of inexpensive accommodation (Yatri Niwases), trekking and mountaineering, beach holidays, wild life tourism, adventure tourism and construction of cheap hotels at places of tourist interest. It is also proposed to enhance the present rate of Interest Subsidy of 1 per cent on hotel loans (2 per cent for 4 and 5-star category and 3 per cent to 5 per cent for 1 to 3-star category) given by the financial institutions. These projects are being finalised in consultation with the State Governments. Also, the Department is coordinating the efforts of the State Tourism Development Corporations of various States and Union Territories to provide package tours for domestic tourists to visit various parts of the country. Similar packages have already been announced by India —Tourism Development Corporation. The Development of facilities for domestic tourists is a continuous process in which the Central Goernment, the State Governments and the private sectors play their respective roles in coordination.

In 1978 the Department got registered the Bharatiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti, an autonomous society to construct|establish new dharamshalas|sarais|musafirkhanas etc. at various places of pilgrimage interest. The Society receives grants from the Government as well as donations from individuals|institutions. The Department of Tourism has released Rs. 40 lakhs as grant-in-aid to Bharatiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti during the 6th Plan period and has proposed to release Rs. 250 lakhs to the Samiti during the 7th Plan period.

The Samiti has commissioned two dharamshalas and construction work at five other dharamshalas is under progress. Construction at 10 more locations is likely to be taken up by the Samiti during the coming years.

The Department has finalised a scheme for construction of Yatri Niwases for budget tourists at places of tourist interest during the 7th Plan period.

The Department also propose launching a media campaign to motivate people particularly the youth to travel more within the country. An essay competition on domestic tourism is proposed to be held among the students shortly.